



# CIVIL SOCIETY PETITION OVER THE POOR ROAD WORKS IN KATAKWI AND AMURIA DISTRICTS

**Presented to  
the Minister of State in Charge of  
Relief and Disaster Preparedness**

**DECEMBER 2, 2009**





## PREAMBLE

**WE** the undersigned members of the civil society and communities from Katakwi (Magoro and Ngariam sub-counties) and Amuria (Orungo, Morungatuny and Obalanga sub-counties) districts organized by Uganda Debt Network (UDN) and Church of Uganda Teso Dioceses Planning and Development Organization (CoU-TEDDO) wish to express our deepest concerns about the road works in the aforementioned districts, funded under the Emergency Repair of Roads proceeding the 2007 floods and subsequent damage in North and North Eastern Uganda. The oversight mandate for the said repairs lies with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), but directly under the authorisation of the Ministry of Relief and Disaster Preparedness.

**AWARE** that the starting period of the projects was July 2008 and ending within five months of commencement (December, 2008); where the tendering processes and technical oversight were executed by the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication (MWTC), and the contracts awarded to M/s Mukalazi Technical Services that, particularly, worked on the following roads;

- a) 30 km Magoro-Ngariam road, in Katakwi district
- b) 18 km Toroma-Magoro road, in Katakwi district
- c) 38km Okude-Orungo-Morungatuny to Obalanga, in Amuria district
- d) 23km Orungo-Amuria road, in Amuria district,

**RE-AFFIRMING** and convinced that civil society has a fundamental constitutional obligations, roles and rights as stipulated in the 1995 Uganda constitution; Articles 17 (1) (d) and (i), 38 (1) and (2) and 176 (2) (e), to participate in the implementation and monitoring of government policies, programmes and projects. This is by way of community monitoring approaches and dialogue with government institutions (both local and national level) and any other well-intentioned players so as to deepen decentralization and promote effective service delivery. The monitoring has contributed to full realization of good governance and



has ensured equitable, transparent and accountable utilization of public resources in Uganda with reference to Katakwi and Amuria districts. We are further mindful of the fact that the Ministry of Relief and Disaster Preparedness has responsibility and oversight role in the management of public funds.

**WE NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** that the Government responded to the urgent needs of the people in the two districts; with funds to repair the roads after the disaster had adversely affected the region. This was a positive response by the Government to rescue the people as per state obligations.

**ALARMED** by the pathetic conditions of the said roads in regard to the following;

### ***1) Magoro-Ngariam road, in Katakwi district***

On the basis of information obtained from the Ngariam sub-county leadership, Magoro-Ngariam road specifications included 5 meters width and 30 Kilometers length. It was to have catch water drains, toe drains and off shoots, pipe culverts, head walls, wing walls, aprons, drop inlet chambers and metallic pipe culverts. The road was to undergo heavy grading and compact to 95% Mod. AASHTO and the work was to be completed within five months at a contract price of UGX 247,930,800/=

#### **However;**

- The Katakwi District Inspector of roads shared with the teams of Community Based Monitors (October 2008) that the contractors only visited the district office for a site visit before the work commenced. However, they were surprised to learn that construction had started without the involvement and knowledge of the district (District engineer and Inspector of Roads).
- Throughout the 30 kilometre road, it was noted all culverts were fitted poorly with nothing placed on their bases, no head walls and no wing walls as per the specifications in the contract.



- About 85% of the 600mm culverts installed on the road were silted and deformed even before project completion. However, some culverts were re-installed after community monitoring.
- Grading of the road was done as per the specifications however no gravel was poured on any section of the road.
- At Ngariam corner, the road was 4 meters of carriage width.
- Catch water drains were not dug while the head walls, wing walls and aprons were not built.

## **2) Toroma-Magoro road in Katakwi district**

The 18 kilometers long Toroma-Magoro road had specifications of 6 metres width. It was to have catch water drains, toe drains and off shoots, pipe culverts, head walls, wing walls, aprons, drop inlet chambers and metallic pipe culverts. The road was to undergo heavy grading and compact to 95% Mod. AASHTO.

The work was to be completed within 5 months at a contract price of UGX 199,080,256/=.

### **However;**

- About 80 percent of the 600mm and 900mm culverts installed on Toroma-Magoro road had silted and deformed, even before project completion.
- All culverts were fitted without bedding bases, no head walls, no off shoots and no wing walls as per the specifications in the contract.
- No gravel, including the expected spot murraming, was poured on any section of the road and only light grading was done, contrary to the project specifications.
- In Oriau A village near Oriau Primary school, the road measured 3.7 meters from side drain to side drain, all contrary to the specifications.



### **3) Okude-Orungo-Morungatuny to Obalanga, in Amuria district**

Okude-Orungo-Morungatuny to Obalanga project contract number MOWT/DUR/Floods/07 – 08/001 had specifications that included 6 metres width, 38 Kilometers length. Metallic culverts of 600mm diameter and 900mm diameter were also to be installed, as well as re-gravelling, spot murraming and drainage improvement.

The work was to be completed within 5 months at a contract price of UGX 405,836,096/=.

#### **However;**

- According to the notification of the award of contract document issued to sub-counties of Orungo and Morungatuny, there were significant inconsistencies between 4.5 meters and 5.0 meters towards the bridges (near Okude trading Centre, Aita Village, Aita-Ojenit village, Aceele village and Ateuso village).
- Okude-Orungo –Morungatuny road, there were few off shoots dug, no catch water drains, no head walls and aprons constructed.
- Spot murruming was done although it was between 20-23mm of the layers as compared to 100mm as per the specification.
- In Ameca village, Orungo sub-county, the road was diverted leaving the tree that was supposed to be cut and uprooted to pave way for the road.
- Between Okude-Orungo –Morungatuny concrete culverts were installed instead of metallic as per the specifications. However after the community monitoring, some metallic culverts were installed.

### **4) Orungo- Amuria road, in Amuria district,**

Orungo-Amuria road had specifications that included grading 5 metres width and 23 Kilometers length. It was to have metallic culverts of 600mm diameter and 900mm diameter. Digging catch water drains, toe drains, off shoots, head walls, wing walls, aprons and drop inlet chambers. It was to be re-graveled/spot re-graveling with thickness of



100mm. The work was to be completed within 5 months at a contract price of UGX 186,444,216/=.

**However;**

- Soil instead of murrum was used for back filling of bridges. No head walls and wing walls were constructed as per the specifications.
- No strip map showing the number of spots and locations was availed to the district and sub-county authorities for monitoring purposes.
- Culverts were installed without allowance for the smooth flow of water.
- There are limited visible spots of murrum poured and the areas that were spot re-graveled had 20 – 23mm instead of 100mm as per the specifications.

**FURTHER CONCERNED** that in view of the above issues, the communities together with the Community Based Monitors in Katakwi and Amuria districts; have on various occasions held dialogues, joint verification exercises and follow-ups with local government leaders, but with no much success in registering corrective action either by the relevant ministry, district authorities or M/s Mukalazi Technical Services. For instance, these issues were raised on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2009, in the presence of Rogers Sengendo a representative of M/s Mukalazi Technical Services, Engineer Patrick Kamanyire, Project Manager from MWTC, Community Based Monitors and members of the general civil society. Others present were; Katakwi Inspector of roads, district and sub-county leadership, members of UDN, CoU-TEDDO, and the media. Others who agreed with the community monitors' findings included Amuria CAO and RDC. Promises were made but no action was taken to date.

It is against this backdrop that the team present here before you is presenting a petition on behalf of the concerned communities of Amuria and Katakwi, so that corrective action is done on the four roads, to ensure value for money and to enhance quality delivery of government policies, programs and projects to their intended beneficiaries.



**WE RECOMMEND** that the OPM;

- Through the docket of Ministry of Relief and Disaster Preparedness explains to the communities about issues of M/s Mukalazi Technical Services and revive hopes of the beneficiaries that the road works will be completed before the end of 2009.
- Ensures that M/s Mukalazi Technical Services fully implements the said four roads expeditiously as per the specification, before the end of 2009.
- Black lists M/s Mukalazi Technical Services in Teso sub region for the non-responsiveness exhibited in their empty promises and poor conduct before the Local Government authorities and the communities who are the intended beneficiaries of such good interventions of government.
- If M/s Mukalazi Technical Services fails to accomplish the work before the end of 2009, he should refund the un-accounted tax payers money.
- Should involve district leadership in identification, planning, implementation and monitoring of project as a result of natural disasters.
- Should endeavour to share information regarding projects implemented as a result of disaster with the district leadership so as to help in monitoring.
- M/s Mukalazi Technical Services makes a public apology to the affected communities in national media.



Cc.

1. Hon. Prime Minister
2. Hon. Speaker of Parliament
3. Hon. Deputy Speaker of Parliament
4. Minister of Relief and Disaster Preparedness
5. Minister of Works, Housing, Transport and Telecommunications
6. Minister of State for Ethics and Integrity
7. Minister of Local Government
8. Public Accounts Committee of Parliament
9. Local Government Public Accountability Committee of Parliament
10. Committee of Social Services of Parliament
11. Accountability Sector- DEI
12. Hon. Alupo Jessica
13. Hon. Acen Rhoda
14. Hon. Malinga Johnson
15. Hon. Oleny Charles Ojok
16. All Honorable Members of Parliament.
17. Executive Director of Uganda National Road Authority
18. Executive Director of Public Procurement and Disposal Authority

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19. RDC Amuria and Katakwi district
20. LC V Amuria and Katakwi district
21. CAO Amuria and Katakwi district
22. District Inspectors of Roads Amuria and Katakwi district
23. District Engineers Amuria and Katakwi district
24. District Planners Amuria and Katakwi district
25. Sub county Chiefs
26. Chair persons LCIII
27. M/s Mukalazi Technical Services



## BRIEF ABOUT COU-TEDDO

The Church of Uganda Teso Dioceses Planning and Development Office (COU-TEDDO) is the planning and development arm of the Church of Uganda Soroti and Kumi Dioceses in the Teso sub-region in North Eastern Uganda. It was created in 1995 to undertake planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development interventions in the sub-region through the Church Structures. COU-TEDDO assists the targeted grassroot communities in the districts of Kumi, Katakwi, Kaberamaido, Soroti, Amuria and Bukedea to develop their communities and leaders through the formation of strong households, groups, associations and Community Based Organizations (CBOs). COU-TEDDO is a team-based organization committed to sharing knowledge, leadership and learning. It concentrates its efforts on five thematic areas of Sustainable livelihoods, Peace building, Human Rights and Emergency, Health promotion and HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation, Institutional/Organizational capacity building and Good Governance.

### MISSION:

COU-TEDDO: To promote sustainable socio-economic development and empowerment of communities in Teso through participatory and integrated approaches.

## UGANDA DEBT NETWORK (UDN)

Uganda Debt Network (UDN) was established in 1996 as an ad hoc coalition of 26 Non-Governmental Organizations, individuals, and representatives of religious and academic institutions to campaign for debt relief for Uganda that was being promoted worldwide by civil society organizations under the Jubilee 2000 coalition. UDN's work has since expanded and evolves around five thematic areas namely: a) Community Participation and Empowerment Programme b) Policy Analysis and Socio-Economic Research Programme c) Budget Advocacy



Initiative Programme and, d) Governance and Rights Programme and e) Civil Society Capacity Building Programme.

Under the Community Participation and Empowerment programme, UDN has built the capacity of community 14 districts to be able to monitor the quality of service delivery of government programmes.

### **MISSION:**

UDN works to promote and advocate for pro-poor policies and full participation of poor people in influencing poverty-focused policies, monitoring the utilization of public resources and ensuring that borrowed and national resources are prudently managed in an open, accountable and transparent manner so as to benefit the Uganda people.

UDN and COU TEDDO have a common interest to strengthen the voices of the poor and marginalized communities in remote Teso sub region especially in Amuria and Katakwi districts. The two organisations work to strengthen the communities to be able to demand accountability from their local governments.



## LIST OF VILLAGES OF THE PETITIONERS

Road	Village
Toroma-Magoro Road	Oriau
	Magoro Centre
	Ajamanya
	Akisim
	Agule
	Akajamaka
	Lalei
	Ajamaka
	Kide
	Centre Village
	Apeero
	Apeleum
	Okorio
	Apuuton
	Kamenu
	Obwokomor
	Agiritom
	Aleles
	Akwooro
	Angaro
Magoro-Ngariam Road	Kanapa
	Okibuli
	Ogugutu
	Apeleun
	Orukurukio
	Acanga
	Kaikamosing
	Okuwee
	Adokar
	Okwamomwar
	Acegel Ekinei
	Turkar
	Apuuton
	Apeleun
	Okuso
	Olupe
	Aguru
Siriye	
Osiomit	

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LIST OF VILLAGES OF THE PETITIONERS CONT'D

Road	Village
	Aiiti
	Arusiakon
	Morulinga
	Aleles
	Aelenyang
	Arusiakan
	Acegelekinei
	Aguru
	Amoru
	Oloin
	Oliangoi
<b>Okude-Orungo-Morungatuny to Obalanga</b>	Jalam
	Acele
	Olunguro
	Ojama
	Agwajura
	Ogungai
	Obagin
	Olwa
	Odomai
	Abata
	Arute
	Olusai
	Akuya
	Ateuso
	Ajuru
Ogobai	
Orapak	

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LIST OF VILLAGES OF THE PETITIONERS CONT'D

Road	Village
Okude-Orungo-Morungatuny to Obalanga	Ojukot
	Ogangai
	Orimai
	Lale
	Ogoliai
	Ococia
	Omodoi
	Omodoi
	Ojobai
	Olimi
	Moru
	Morungatuny T/C
	Aboket
	Orapak
	Omunyir
	Ongangai
	Aboket
	Ayola
	Ojama-Ocema
	Odomal
	Okao
	Abata
	Orieta
	Onyongo
	Ojama
	Ajuri-Ogolati
	Amret
	Odukuti
	Ojareta
	Arapai Amusus
Jalam	
Odepe	
Ojuko	

End

## Contact Us

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